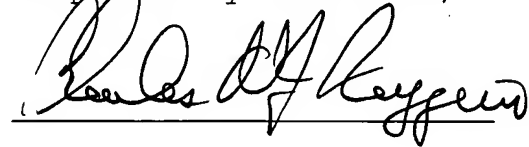


REMARKS

Claims 8, 10, 15, and 17 remain pending. Claims 1 to 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 29 to 42 have been added.

Allowance of claims 8, 10, 15, and 17 and new claims 29 to 42 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", is written over a horizontal line.

Dated: April 30, 2004

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